of the body. Even certain normal constituents of the blood may accumulate in excess, and toxic environment of the neuron may supervene, as for example in uremia and Graves' disease. In the process of digestion a number of toxic albumoses and other substances are produced which, although normal enough in their proper place, are abnormal in the blood. By the vital action of the living epithelium of the alimentary canal and by the bio-chemical processes occurring in the liver, these substances are usually kept out of the systemic circulation. If, however, these structures are prevented by any cause from performing their normal function, toxic conditions of the blood may arise and be a source of morbid nervous phenomena.

Again, from defective metabolism abnormal substances may be found in the blood, and may be associated with various nervous disturbances. The very term "melancholia," indicates the importance which has long been attached to the liver as an organ, the derangement of which causes nervous depression. The delirium, coma, and other symptoms occurring in acute yellow atrophy of the liver demonstrate the important part played by this organ in maintaining constant the normal quality or the blood. Again in diabetic coma we have an example of auto-intoxication, while in certain grave anemias the degenerative changes found in the spinal cord are due not so much to the defect in the red corpuscles as to some toxic agent absorbed with the portal blood which not only leads to hæmolysis, but acts as a poison upon those nervous structures which are found in a state of degeneration.

A certain number of cases of puerperal insanity are due to septic blood-poisoning in psychopathic or neuropathic individuals, and the nervous phenomena connected with other infections are familiar to all. The best examples of selective actions of microbial toxins are afforded by rabies and tetanus, but the toxin of diphtheria may also be cited, and the tendency of syphilis to select certain areas of the nervous system is well known. We have then to recognise that poisons introduced into the blood stream, and thus into the lymph by which the tissues are fed, do not merely cause a generalised interference with the functions of the nervous system, but have a selective action, so that each poison tends to fall with especial force upon certain special groups or families of neurons; and that this selection is in some cases specific to the individual poison, while in some it is due rather to the tendency of the poison to fall upon such weakly neurons as have been enfeebled by stress or by hereditary taint. To this we would add that the action of these poisons appears sometimes to be limited to disturbance of function, while it sometimes leads to definite changes such as the neuritis; and further that it is very probable that even where the effect of the poison is so slight as not to give rise to obvious symptoms at the time, the final effect may be that degenerative changes may occur in the areas of nervous tissue which had been picked out by the poison at a far earlier date than would otherwise have been the case. In this way perhaps, we may explain the relation between certain system degenerations of the nervous system, such as those producing ataxy and general paralysis, and some longforgotten attack of syphilis. JELLIFFE.

YOHIMBIN. A NEW APHRODISIAC. L. Löwy. (Therapeutische Monatschr., 14, 1900, p. 597).

The author reports on the alkaloid or mixture of alkaloids obtained from the bark of a member of the Rubiaceae which has a marked effect on the vascular supply of the genital organs. THOMS has given the formula, C_{23}, H_{32}, N_2, O_4 or C_{22}, H_{30}, N_2, O_4 to this body and Oberwarth has determined the lethal dose for guinea-pigs to be 1-6 grain to the kilogram of animal. In cold-blooded animals when given in increasing doses there is a gradual weakening of the function of the spinal cord the heart's action is slowed and depressed and respiration is also depressed. Death is due, in frogs, to paralysis of the heart's action. Blood pressure is diminished. In man, according to Löwy's researches, it has a distinct action in the genital sphere. Doses of the hydrochloride of yohimbin of from 1-10 to 1-6 of a grain, in water 1-500, produce a marked congestion of the ovaries and testicles, with swelling and increase of sexual desire. In a series of cases of Mendel's the impotence of locomotor ataxia was not affected, but the loss of power of prostatic disease and sexual neurasthenia was favorably influenced.

ZUR BEHANDLUNG DER EPILEPSIE MIT BROMIPIN (Treatment of Epilepsy with Bromipin, Bromin 10% in Solution of oil Sessamun). Lorenz. (Wien. Klin. Wochen., Nov. 1, 1900.)

This author gives in detail the histories of eighteen male and sixteen female epileptics when under the bromipin treatment. In not a single one of these cases did there occur any unpleasant collateral action of the drug; and especially no gastro-intestinal disturbance or anorexia. During the monthly weighing of the patients a gain was the rule; five of the thirty-four lost weight; seven held their own, and all the others gained. Some of the patients took the remedy with pleasure and none with repugnance. As a rule it was given in liquid form, only a few taking it in capsules. Bromipin was well borne as a rule, but in a few patients it produced confusion, excitement, etc., for a short time only. In these cases bromipin was then given secretly, mixed with food. Before the bromipin treatment was actually begun, the patients were given no form of medicine whatever for a period of two weeks in order to obtain a definite idea of the therapeutic power of the remedy. During this period eleven of the patients had their attacks increased in number and severity. The dose of bromipin varied greatly in the individual case. In some patients the attempt was made to determine the minimum sufficient dose. In general, the daily amount varied from 10 to 20 gm., equal to from 1.75 gm. to 3.50 gm. of sodium bromide. The available dose in the author's experience varies from 20 gm. to 30 gm., 3.5-5.25gm. bromide sodium. Thirteen patients showed a distinct improvement over previous results during the entire period of treatment. One patient showed an actual increase in the number of his attacks. The other patients showed no improvement over other methods of treatment. In three cases, major attacks remained unchanged, while the attacks of petit mal were increased in number. The improvement in the general condition was on a par with that obtained in the epileptic state. The bromic acne caused by former treatment, disappeared completely under the bromipin in five cases, while in sixteen others a decided improvement was apparent. Having previously made a trial of the Flechsig method, the author is able to state positively that bromipin gives much better results.

CLARK.